



LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

February 11, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: Bailey, Brodsky, Chiles, Dickerson, Grey-McKenzie, Kim, Krantz, G. Lewis, O. Lewis, Neuman, Pandya

STAFF PRESENT: B. Parker Hamilton, Director; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

The Library Board meeting was convened by Chair Neuman at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes from the January 14, 2009 meeting were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Neuman announced that the nominee identified a potential conflict of interest, and therefore, she withdrew.

The joint meeting day with the Library Board, the LAC's and the FOL, is November 18 (not November 11).

For Library Lover's month, there are giveaways and bookmarks at the branches.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting with County Executive, February 17, 2009

Dr. Neuman has extended an invitation to the Friends of the Library to be a part of this meeting as has been done in the past. First the introductions will be made and then the discussion will begin. All who attend will select a talking point so everyone will have something to say. This way, Mr. Leggett can put a name with a face. There will be time for open dialog at the end of the meeting. Everyone with the exception of Niyati will be able to attend. The meeting will be held in the EOB, second floor conference room at 9:00 p.m. Board members will meet prior to the meeting at 8:30 p.m. in the EOB cafeteria to cover talking points. Anyone wanting to select their topic in advance needs to let the group know before hand so topics can be assigned when the group meets on the 17th. Remarks must be kept to a few minutes. Dr. Neuman will send a reminder email prior to the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

There have been major **personnel changes**.

- Linda Mielke, the Information Technology, Collection Management Chief, had been reassigned to the Praisner branch as Agency Manager; effective today, she is no longer an employee of the Library Department.
- Barbara Webb, who was the Branch Operations PSA, is now the Information Technology, Collection Management person.
- Carol Legarreta, who was Community Outreach and Engagement PSA, is now head of Branch Operations.

Permission has been received from OMB and the CAO to fill Carol's vacant position. The recruitment process has already begun to fill that position. A request will be made for permission to fill the agency manager position at Praisner; permission is expected to be granted. Recruitment for both positions will be from the inside only; to allow managers inside the department the opportunity to apply. If no one inside is interested, then recruitment from the outside will begin.

A discussion with the Office of Management and Budget regarding MCPL's **budget** has taken place. A number of scenarios were presented to them. At the end of the discussion the question was asked, "If money was found not to cut libraries' budget a total of 7%, where would the money be put back?" In staff, was the response.

A meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, with Mr. Leggett to discuss the budget whose decision won't be known until March. It has been critical having the Board members out there to give Mr. Leggett information about the role of libraries. Because the Board is out there, he knows the value of libraries; he has heard from everyone in this room, school board members, and other community members. At the Library Lovers month program at Gaithersburg, he indicated that libraries are an integral part of County government. He understands that Libraries serve the vulnerable, the business people, and children – there is not a resident in this County that Libraries do not touch in some way.

The pedestrian bridge continues to be a hot topic surrounding the **new Silver Spring Library**.

Many residents of Silver Spring have come out against a pedestrian bridge.

They believe it is not part of urban development. Library users, FOL and LACs need to get the word out that a pedestrian bridge is the right thing to do. It will ensure that library users can get to the library without crossing Wayne Avenue; it's a matter of safety. A mid-block crossing would not work according to the Department of Transportation and Park and Planning; but Park and Planning also said no to the bridge. A decision will be made tomorrow.

In **Wheaton**, the issue is whether or not the library is renovated at its current location or moved to the central business district and a new library built. Over 100 people attended the February 9 public meeting, most from the Kemp Mill area. They were vocal about not moving the library. There will probably be another public meeting closer to the Wheaton business district so that perspectives from other residents from the Wheaton community can be heard.

The Wheaton branch is very successful and part of the success is due to the fact that it is located on Georgia Avenue and people travel from Silver Spring to Olney; there is high circulation. If it's not put in the right place, it's not going to be productive. We need to fight hard to get the right location if the decision is made to relocate to the Central Business District by the County

Executive. There are lots of reasons to stay where we are; space, parking and we could build up. There are reasons to stay or go; we'll have to see what the arguments are and what is offered to us in terms of location. Rob Klein, the redevelopment officer for Wheaton, has presented a concept of what they are trying to do in that area. The timeframe is 7-10 years. It is not going to happen anytime soon because of the economy. What is very positive is that there were over 100 people in a room talking about library services. We want to make sure when we go back to Mr. Leggett that we have made every effort to hear all the voices.

The FOL's role is to augment, fund enhancements for libraries. They are not in the business of funding core services including basic collections. It would be beneficial if they wanted to fund playaways or a language that the Library currently does not have - anything that could be considered an enhancement. Programming is fine to fund. The department requested and received funding from the FOL to do system-wide programming.

An example of an enhancement: The **Rockville** FOL are going to purchase new chairs for the meeting rooms and the department will give the old chairs to another branch that can use them. Rita Gale is working with them to coordinate style and color. Once purchased, the chairs will belong to the library system.

An agency manager requesting funding over \$100 from the FOL must first submit the request to Carol Legarreta. If it is in relationship to furniture or facilities, a copy of the request should be submitted to Rita Gale; if it concerns collection, a copy should be submitted to Barbara Webb. A final decision regarding whether or not the request can go to the FOL will be made and conveyed to the requesting agency manager.

A question was raised regarding the FOLs providing petty cash to agency managers. Parker will discuss with Eric Carzon what the ethics laws state about the FOLs' petty cash and "slush funds" in relationship to the branches.

Libraries will conduct a survey, and the FOL will be surveying their chairs, to see what is possible regarding space for the FOL book sales. A decision has been made for Quince Orchard; Parker's next visit will be to Aspen Hill. Space goes to libraries first since it is a public building, and the space is needed to conduct business.

There is some confusion about how FOL money is allocated, who makes the decisions, and how do people get their money back if they ask for reimbursement. Dr. Neuman asked the Board if they wish to invite Ann Dorrough, FOL President, back to a future meeting. The Board needs to have a list of questions for her so that she can be prepared. It was noted that Aileen Klein can answer questions regarding FOL chapter relations.

Discussion regarding FOL chapters, grants and funding.

Parker requested that Board members please review the Report to the Community. The report shows 2,833 volunteers in our system; they donated 66,000 hours, which is great. These hours include: Library Board attendance and associated meetings, branch volunteers, conversation clubs, chess clubs, book discussions, mending of books, etc. Everything is tracked.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Board and LAC Activities

Awards

Dr. Neuman announced that the award application is now an online link. It's on the Library Board website. The website is up and running and looking good; it is easy to use. She requested that the members remind their LAC's to submit the award applications.

LAC Brochures

The only changes in the generic brochure will be the contact information and the name of the library. Silver Spring and Aspen Hill are the only LACs who would like to have additional changes. Silver Spring is the only one that submitted the changes when requested. All other LACs will receive the generic brochure with the stated changes. A motion was made and seconded without opposition that the brochures be printed and sent to the branches without further delay.

LAC Handbook

The LAC handbook is still being updated. Sticking points regarding the LAC Handbook are the quorum; the term of office or the rotation of office; and selection of members. Note: The Volunteer Handbook is done; it is in the process of being printed.

County Budget Hearing Strategy – Lois Neuman

It was recommended that identifiers be worn by all when attending a budget hearing. The identifiers should be something visible so that when people go in to a hearing collectively, it is apparent who the library supporters are. Suggested were: stickers ("I love libraries and I vote"); armbands; signs (must be no larger than 8 ½ x 11); t-shirts; buttons and scarves. Parker feels strongly that the "I love libraries and I vote" message has become almost a cliché; it's too soft. She suggested "libraries are essential"; a stronger message.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Forum

David Chiles attended the Bethesda/Chevy Chase forum. We need to stress that we are an essential service and that everyone wants to use us. A representative from Quince Orchard made the statement that "libraries are not just about the now, they are about the future. Our tax dollars spent on libraries is an investment in people, all people, no exclusions."

Art Brodsky reported that the Wheaton forum was not heavily attended, but the Latino Health Initiative was present and well organized.

MLA's Legislative Day

Paulette Dickerson, Jill Lewis and Gail Bailey attended MLA's Legislative Day and visited the Montgomery County delegation. A packet of information about MCPL was given to all senators and delegates. It was learned that there is a fiscal stabilization component in the stimulus package, which includes discretionary funds that could be used to support libraries. MCPS (K-12 Digital library) is working with the public libraries to form a larger consortium called the Maryland Library Consortium (Maryland Digital Library, SAILOR, MPEARL) to negotiate with vendors to purchase digital resources in a cost effective way. In the last two years over \$600K

has been saved. Senate Bill 235 established the MDK12 Digital Library in the Maryland State Department of Education.

Legislative and Public Affairs

Otto Lewis thanked Paulette for her talking points, noting that some may be used in the discussion with the County Executive or County Council.

Annual MCLB/LAC Meeting

For the annual meeting, Dr. Neuman suggested that the LACs be asked to bring any literature that might have to be used as handouts. Dr. Pinkney cannot attend, but he will send a representative in his place. Dr. Johnson has been invited but we have no response to date. Henry Heller who is the Co-chair of the Education Subcommittee within the Budget Committee of the House of Delegates and a Montgomery College alumnus should be invited. A list of elected officials and community leaders who should be invited will be compiled.

LAC UPDATES:

Olney was having problems with their bookdrop but those have been resolved. Their LAC meetings will be the second Tuesday of every month except August.

Better signage is needed at **Noyes**. Susan Modak should email Rita Gale.

Silver Spring had questions about the information that could be obtained through use of the new receipt printers. They are concerned that what customers are reading and how long they have had an item checked out can be tracked. This is in reference to where the information is being stored and if any statistical data is going to be collected. Parker asked that an email be sent to her regarding this issue.

Bethesda has excellent programming scheduled for the spring.

Poolesville also has excellent programming and questions regarding the procedure to obtain funds. The funding questions will receive follow up.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

B. Parker Hamilton